(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to step up the pace of textile production?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Production of fabrics excluding hosiery, khadi, wool and silk sector during 1996-97 and 1997-98 was as follows:

1996-97 — 19352 million sq. mtrs.
1997-98 — 20951 million sq. mtrs.

The provisional figures for the period April to September 1998-99 was 10385 million sq. mtrs.

(b) There is no decline.

(c) The anticipated achievement during the current year 1998-99 is estimated at 21320 million sq. mtrs.

(d) Mainly the role of the Textile Ministry is that of a facilitator. But some of the steps aimed at improving the textile sector are listed below:

1. An Expert Committee has been constituted inter-alia, to make recommendations for a new Textile Policy.

2. A Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme is proposed to be launched for implementation in the current Plan period intending to give accent to the post spinning sub-sectors (weaving, processing and garment) by providing an interest incentive to the identified sectors of textile industry.

3. In order to have a coordinated approach to cotton development, a Cotton Technology Mission has been proposed in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture, aiming to cover in a coordinated fashion different areas like increasing productivity, improving research, marketing and post harvest activities.

4. A task force has been constituted for facilitating induction of Information Technology in the textile sector.

5. Duty structure is constantly being rationalised to promote export and encourage import of technology.

Rehabilitation of Displaced Textile Workers in Maharashtra and Gujarat

2635. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to rehabilitate the workers rendered jobless due to the closure of textile mills in the country, particularly in Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) the details of the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to make easy the functioning of the textile industry and to provide more facilities to the industry;

(c) whether the Central Government have extended any financial assistance to the State Governments for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted any request for rehabilitation of the displaced textile workers; and

(f) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA). (a) Govenrment has been implementing a Taxtile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to provide interim relief to the workers rendered jobless due to partial/permanent closure of mill. The scheme is applicable throughout the country.

(b) the following steps have been taken by the Government:

1. Setting up of an Expert Committe for recommending a new Textile Policy;

2. Giving EOUs producing cotton yarn, flexibility to export such yarn without any count restriction;

3. Mooting a proposal to launch a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for Textile & Jute Industries to provide interest incentive to textile and jute units;

4. Mooting a proposal to launch a Cotton Technology Mission with a view to increasing productivity, improving research, marketing and post harvest activities;

5. Setting up of a task force for facilitating induction of Information Technology in the textile sector, etc.

(c) and (d) It is not obligatory for the Central Government to provide financial assisance to State Government. However, Government has established a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 to tackle problems of sicklness.

(e) and (f) The Ministry of Indusry, Department of Industrial Development has received to proposals from the Government of Gujarat as follows:

(i) Proposal of Gujarat State Textile Corporation Ltd. (GSTC) for assistance from National Renewal Fund (NRF).

(ii) Proposal of Government of Gujarat seeking NRF assistance for closed Textile Mills.

Assistance from NRF is presently available only for VRS in Central Public Sector Undertakings and for counselling, retraining of rationalised workers.

12.00 NOON

STATEMENT BY MINISTER ANSWER TO QUESTION

Correcting the reply given in Rajya Sabha on the 1st December, 1998 to Unstarred Question 209 regarding rate of inflation

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I lay on the Table a Statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on 1st December, 1998 to the Unstarred Question 209 regarding rate of inflation. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-2147/98]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the Airline Allied Services Ltd. new Delhi and related papers.

II. Notification of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Sir, I lay on the Table—

I (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Airline Allied Services Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, together with the Auditors' Reprot on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1914/98]

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation Notification G.S.R. 182, dated the 31st August, 1998, publishing the Aircraft (First Amendment) Rules, 1998, regarding collection of Foreign Travel Tax, under sub-section (3) of section 14-A of the Aircraft Act, 1934, together